

Message Text

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SUBJECT: VISIT OF CONGRESSMAN PAUL FINDLEY

REF: STATE 300787

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONS IN REFTEL CONCERNING THE AGRICULTURAL EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN GREECE:

2. THE STRUCTURE OF THE PRESENT AGRICULTURAL EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM: THE HIGHEST GRADE OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN GREECE IS AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL AND IS OFFERED AT THE SUPERIOR SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE IN ATHENS AND THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI AT THESSALONIKI. A "HIGHER" GRADE OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION (SOMEWHAT BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY LEVEL ON THE US SCALE) IS OFFERED AT THREE CENTERS OF HIGHER AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY LOCATED AT THESSALONIKI, LARISSA, AND IRAKLION; AND AT TWO CENTERS OF HIGHER FOOD TECHNOLOGY LOCATED AT ATHENS AND THESSALONIKI. A MIDDLE GRADE AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION (SIMILAR TO A US VOCATIONAL SCHOOL) IS OFFERED AT THE AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL IN THESSALONIKI.

3. EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SYSTEM: THE GRADUATES OF THE HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ACQUIRE A GOOD GENERAL AGRICULTURAL KNOWLEDGE. THEY HAVE THE ABILITY TO SERVE AS EXTENSION AGENTS BUT LACK PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING.

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4. THE WEAKNESS OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM (EXCEPT FOR THE AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL) IS IN THE LACK OF ADEQUATE FIELD TRAINING.

5. PAST US EFFORTS TO HELP IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN GREECE: THE US HAS OFFERED POST-GRADUATE TRAINING IN THE US IN VARIOUS FIELDS OF AGRICULTURE, VETERINARY SCIENCE, AND FORESTRY. A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF HIGH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS AND OFFICIALS OF OTHER INSTITUTIONS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THESE COURSES. IN ADDITION, DURING 1950'S, UNDER THE AMAG (AMERICAN MISSION AID TO GREECE) PROGRAM, THE US HELPED ORGANIZE THE GREEK AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE, INCLUDING HOME ECONOMICS. THE AMERICAN FARM SCHOOL, A PRIVATE SCHOOL FOUNDED SOME SEVENTY YEARS AGO, HAS IN RECENT YEARS BEEN THE RECIPIENT OF A SMALL AMOUNT OF USAID FUNDS.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE SYSTEM MUST BE PRECEDED BY RESEARCH, STUDY, AND DISCUSSION WITH APPROPRIATE GOG OFFICIALS. (SUCH ASSISTANCE COULD BEGIN, THEREFORE, BY HAVING A US EXPERT COME TO GREECE TO INITIATE SUCH DISCUSSIONS).

7. WE WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS IN GREATER ASPECT AND DETAIL WITH CONGRESSMAN FINDLEY WHEN HE IS IN ATHENS.
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